

Mubarak visits S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in the northeastern region of Hafir Al Batin Monday at the start of a visit to Saudi Arabia, his first overseas trip since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of U.S.-led multinational troops building confrontations in Kuwait. Mubarak, whose country is the leading Arab contributor to the forces from Saudi Arabia to other Gulf allied capitals. Mubarak landed at Al Kaysouna airport, 48 kilometers from Hafir Al Batin, which is close to the border with Kuwait and main base for at least 14,000 Egyptian troops deployed to the multinational forces. Hafir Al Batin is 500 kilometers north of the capital, Riyadh. Informed Saudi sources said that the Egyptian leader would spend time with his troops and then proceed to the Red Sea port city of Jeddah for a meeting with King Fahd and Mubarak was scheduled to go on to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday and return to Egypt on Wednesday.

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Kabriti, envoy discuss tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabriti received in his office Monday German Counsellor in Amman Matthias Meyer and reviewed with him arrangements for the opening of Umm Qais archaeological museum, which the German government helped establish. Kabriti thanked the German government for the assistance it extended to Jordan in the fields of tourism and archaeology. The minister said he also discussed with the German diplomat means to reinvigorate German tourism to Jordan. "Results of our efforts will be visible soon," he told the Jordan Times. German tour operators have cancelled plans to bring in about 30,000 German tourists to the Dead Sea in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Red Crescent helps send food to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — A shipment of relief supplies has been sent to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in Baghdad as a gift from the Pakistani Red Crescent Society to Pakistani nationals living in Iraq, according to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), which organised the transportation of the supplies. JNRCS Vice-President Dr. Mohammad Mutah Al Hadid, said that the shipment, sent upon the request of the Pakistani Red Crescent in Amman, consisted of 21 tonnes foodstuff and was transported under JNRCS supervision. Hadid said in a statement that the JNRCS was willing to make other humanitarian deliveries to foreign nationals in Iraq through the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

League observes pause in row over HQ

TUNIS (R) — The row over transferring the Arab League's headquarters from Tunis to Cairo will be put on the back burner when the league's ministerial council meets on Monday night, diplomats said. Diplomats said the issue would not be raised at Monday's meeting which would probably mean the move would be delayed beyond the deadline of Oct. 31. On behalf of the five members of the Arab Maghreb Union, Algeria Saturday asked that the transfer procedure be suspended until the next meeting of league foreign ministers. A date for that meeting has not been fixed.

Shamir to bring in more Ethiopians

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he was "doing all it can" to allow thousands of Ethiopian Jews suffering from disease and hunger to emigrate, an aide said Monday. About 500 Ethiopian immigrants demonstrated outside his office Sunday. Israeli officials estimate about 22,000 Jews remain in Ethiopia. Most are stranded in the capital of Addis Ababa, where they travelled last month, outlying villages to await departure to Israel. Some 17,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel. About half came during the secret "Operation Moses" rescue mission in 1984-85.

Iran to hold fair in Soviet Azerbaijan

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will hold a trade fair in Baku, capital of neighbouring Soviet Azerbaijan next month, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. The fair, opening on Nov. 11, reflects growing ties between Iran and the Soviet Union and heralds increased trade between the southern Soviet republic and the Iranian province of east Azerbaijan.

Oil falls record \$5 a barrel

NEW YORK (R) — The price of oil plunged \$5 a barrel in hectic and panicky New York trading on Monday, the biggest one-day fall in the history of the New York mercantile exchange. In early morning trading, the benchmark November contract was down \$5.24 to \$28.55 a barrel in panic-driven selling. Officials at the exchange said that if oil traded at this level it would be the biggest drop since crude oil began trading in 1983. The previous biggest one-day fall was a drop of \$4.27 on Aug. 27.

Pakistani army deployed in sensitive areas

RAWALPINDI (R) — Pakistan has deployed more than 20,000 soldiers to check violence during national elections Wednesday, an army spokesman said Monday. The army has been deployed... to help the civil administration in conducting general elections in a peaceful manner, the spokesman said. "The troops will not be posted inside polling stations," he added. Three divisions of regular and paramilitary forces have been put on standby in the troubled southern province of Sind and in Pakistan's commercial capital Karachi. About 12,000 have been already deployed and the remainder held in barracks.

Sultan suggests Kuwait could make concessions

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia, in its most conciliatory remarks since the Gulf crisis erupted, has suggested Kuwait could make "territorial concessions" to Iraq.

Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz said Arab countries were ready to grant Iraq "all its rights" but added that there was no question about its unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia "sees no harm in any Arab country giving its Arab sister land, a part or a position on the sea," the prince told Arab journalists in Riyadh Sunday.

Saudi news reports say Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told a Soviet envoy he might be willing to withdraw if Iraq was allowed to keep Bubiyan and Warba islands and part of an oilfield along the disputed border. Iraq denied the report.

Prince Sultan said no time had been set for military action in the Gulf. He urged "seeking peace through all means."

"The Arab countries are ready to give Iraq all its rights. Any Arab who has a claim on his brother should take it by understanding not force," the Qatari News Agency (QNA) quoted him as saying.

"Saudi Arabia supports giving rights to their owners and backs Arab national security, including making fraternal Arab concessions whether to meet confirmed or doubtful rights," he said.

Hrawi works on disarming militias, freeing hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — President Elias Hrawi's government Monday took out plans to disarm tens of thousands of gunmen in Lebanon's militias and free Western hostages held by extremists in which as many as 150,000 have been killed.

A Hrawi aide said the decision was taken during two days of talks in Damascus between Hrawi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who renewed a pledge to support efforts to end the civil war.

But only hours before Hrawi returned to Beirut Sunday night, unidentified gunmen assassinated Christian leader Dany Chamoun, his wife and two small sons at their home in suburban Baabda east of Beirut.

The slayings underlined the murderous nature of Lebanese politics despite Hrawi's Syrian-backed efforts to end more than a decade and a half of anarchy.

Even though Hrawi is backed by Syrian firepower, disarming the private armies which have been responsible for much of the death and destruction in 15 years of civil war and freeing however many of the 13 missing Westerners who are still alive will be no easy task.

Few, if any, of the tens of thousands of fighters in the dozen or so major militias will relish handing over their weapons, which range from automatic weapons to tanks and heavy artillery, and leave themselves defenseless against their rivals.

But it is essential that Hrawi succeed in implementing the peace plan to end the conflict in which as many as 150,000 have been killed.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported that the Lebanese army will now "assume security tasks in Aoun's former areas. The next step is to form a government which would include key militia leaders. This government will take the decision to disband the militias and implement that decision."

A source close to Hoss said: "The new government will decide how to disband the militias and how long the process should take."

The Hrawi aide said the government plans to ask Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces militia, to turn over the east Beirut districts of Ashrafieh, Nabaa and Dora which his men hold to the Lebanese army within two weeks.

"If the Lebanese Forces agree to a peaceful handover, then there will be no need for Syrian troops to enter east Beirut like they did with Aoun's zone. The ball's in Geagea's court," the aide said.

Geagea has publicly said he is willing to withdraw his militia men. But sources at his head-

quarters said that he is

not "pained" by trade sanctions

clamped on Iraq but said they

were better than bloodshed in

pressuring it to withdraw its

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Iran seals reconciliation with Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iran has raised the flag in its embassy in Baghdad, setting the seal after eight years of war on a reconciliation hastened by the Gulf crisis.

Iran and Iraq, whose eight-year conflict ended with a ceasefire in August 1988, severed diplomatic links in 1987.

But Iraq and Iran agreed on Aug. 15 to make permanent peace 13 days after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait.

The decision paved the way for a formal peace treaty in the war. Iranian officials have spoken of an imminent visit to Tehran by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Iranian embassy opened after the two countries resumed direct diplomatic relations Oct. 14.

The mission is headed by Charge d'Affaires Abolqassem Shahzai, who referred to "the strong ties linking the Iraqi and Iranian Islamic peoples" during a flag-raising ceremony on Sunday.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Shahzai as saying the move was aimed at "expanding

the fruitful cooperation between the two neighbouring countries in the interest of the Islamic Nation and to coordinate resistance against any aggression on its holy places and security."

This was a reference to the U.S.-led buildup of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia.

The rapprochement with Tehran raised fears in the West that Iran might side with Iraq in the event of war in the Gulf.

Iran has condemned the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and says it is applying U.N. sanctions. But it has also called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi embassy in Tehran opened last week.

Iraq has withdrawn its troops from Iranian border territory. But differences remain over an exchange of tens of thousands of prisoners of war (POWs).

A senior Iranian official urged Baghdad on Monday to show goodwill and release former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, captured during the war.

Iraqis deny taking medical equipment

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — A senior Iraqi official has dismissed U.S. President George Bush's claims that Iraq had taken medical equipment from hospitals in Kuwait as "baseless and ridiculous lies."

Abdul Jabbar Abdul Abbas, the Iraqi official in charge of hospitals in Kuwait which Iraq calls its 19th province, told reporters that no medical equipment had been taken from hospitals in Kuwait and that normal services continue at health institutions in the emirate.

Abdul Abbas, a physician who heads Baghdad's health department, told reporters visiting the main maternity hospital in Kuwait: "Although medical

officials who spoke to the AP only on condition of anonymity. The dissident group is the largest trying to overthrow the clerical government in Tehran.

However, the assessment from the U.S. officials was strongly challenged by Mujahideen spokesman Farid Soleimani, who told news agencies to insist that his group remained intact in Baghdad and elsewhere.

"The sense is that with this new understanding between Iran and Iraq, an organisation like that is not welcome there any more," said a U.S. administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iraq reported several times last month that Massoud Rajavi, the Mujahideen's Baghdad-based leader, had asked his people to leave Iraq and was himself leaving for Germany.

The Mujahideen also have denied the reports.

But rebel representatives in the United States, who used to bombard reporters, have all but disappeared in recent weeks.

Members of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq of Iran have apparently started leaving Iraq for Paris and other European sites, said the

Abdul Sattar showed reporters 12 babies in incubators in the main intensive care unit of the hospital which is still manned mostly by Asian and non-Kuwaiti medical staff.

"Why should we send incubators to our maternity hospitals in Iraq? We have plenty of them there," said Abdul Sattar.

Reporters also visited Al Razi Hospital for bone disease in downtown Kuwait where about 30 patients were being treated in the luxurious 295-bed hospital built by the royal family in 1984.

Kamal Mustafa, an Egyptian specialist in bone surgery, said most of the patients are suffering from injuries incurred in industrial accidents.

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq says drivers with Kuwaiti licence plates will not get petrol when rationing starts Tuesday unless they re-register their vehicles as Iraqi.

Newspapers Monday quoted Oil Minister Issam Abdol Rahim Al Chalabi as saying foreigners in Iraq would also have to prove they had a valid reason for having cars if they wanted petrol coupons.

Private motorists will be limited to 30 litres (6.6 gallons) of petrol a week and five litres (1.1 gallons) of lubricating oil a month.

"As for those vehicles with Kuwait plates they will not be given coupons before changing their plates to Iraqi ones," the English-language Baghdad Observer quoted Chalabi as saying.

Iraq has sought to remove all symbols of a separate Kuwait since it declared the emirate its 19th province.

Chalabi said foreign diplomatic missions in Iraq and drivers of foreign-registered cars entering from Jordan would get special petrol ration coupons.

But he said drivers of cars with green plates used to denote that they belonged to foreign companies in Iraq would have to produce a legal document to prove they still needed vehicles.

Many of the hundreds of Western and Japanese men prevented from leaving Iraq worked in the country on contracts which have expired.

Long queues of cars jammed petrol stations for a fourth day Monday as motorists rushed to fill up before rationing.

Iraq, with the world's second largest proven oil reserves, announced rationing last Friday. It blamed a shortage of the imported chemicals and additives it needs to refine crude into petrol and lubricants.

It has vowed that U.N. sanctions will not force it into withdrawing from Kuwait. But ordinary Iraqis say petrol rationing will have a big impact on life.

Private cars and taxis, which will get double rations, are the main transport in Baghdad and other cities in the absence of an efficient bus system.

He said the "U.N. peace corps" would only be sent abroad on the basis of a United Nations resolution calling for troops to safeguard international peace and security and to cooperate in peace-keeping operations.

Brushing aside his reply, Socialist Osama Yatabe said: "It is not from a lack of explanation that (Asian countries) have expressed concern. Looking at the essence (of the Japanese plan), Asian people are worried about it."

Prime Minister Toshiaki Kaifu said: "If our explanation is understood, it is not justified to say that Japan intends to become a military power."

But foreign and defence officials told the committee that its members could carry rifles and pistols while supply ships should have machine guns and shotguns for self-protection.

Qadhafi sets deadline for end to Sudan revolt

KHARTOUM (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has renewed his call for unity among his country, Egypt and Sudan and gave southern Sudanese rebels a year to end their revolt or he would join the fighting against them.

Qadhafi made the remarks Sunday in a speech at the closing session of a Sudanese government-sponsored conference that recommended a Libyan-style peoples' congresses as a future political system in Sudan. The speech was nationally televised live.

He said the three countries possess all elements of unity and should therefore not hesitate in setting up unity.

Qadhafi arrived here Saturday to join Sudan's military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir in attending the closing session of the national dialogue conference, which has been debating the political future of this country since Aug. 6.

The 1,000-member conference has recommended that Sudan follow Libya's "Jamaaheria" political system. The word means "republic of the masses" and connotes a system supposedly ruled directly by people's congresses instead of through elected representatives.

"Sudan, Egypt and Libya constitute the heart, the main body of the Arab Nation, the movement of which control the movement of the other Arab states," he said to a jubilant audience.

Egypt which adopts a parliamentary system, has rebuffed Qadhafi's earlier calls for unity. It is expected to continue to oppose the idea.

Qadhafi seemed extremely jubilant over the conference recommendation. He scoffed at the parliamentary, partisan and government systems, saying that all those have become obsolete and have given way to his jamaaheria.

In the jamaaheria system, he

said, the people run their own affairs all by themselves through their people's committees and congresses.

He said that now Sudan has adopted a Libyan-style form of government, Sudanese rebel leader John Garang should end his rebellion.

Qadhafi said Garang was a member of the Libyan-based International Revolutionary Organisation and promised to try to persuade him to end his rebellion now that a jamaaheria system would be established in Sudan.

But if by Oct. 21 next year Garang has not joined the Sudanese masses, then "we will have no option but to stand by the Sudanese people and government against Garang," Qadhafi warned.

The mostly Christian and animist rebels took up arms in 1983 to demand greater autonomy, economic and political reforms from the Muslim-dominated central government in Khartoum.

Qadhafi admitted that Libya had trained and armed Qadhafi's Sudan People's Liberation Army but stopped its military assistance after the ouster of Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri five years ago.

Libya has had close relations with Sudan, its neighbour to the southeast, since a 1985 popular uprising overthrew Numeiri.

The friendship has endured three governments: A transitional military regime that ruled for a year after Numeiri; an ineffectual and squabbling civilian government, which held power for three years; and Bashir's junta, which took power in a coup June 30 last year.

After the coup, Bashir disbanded and banned political parties and dismissed the elected parliament. Since then, he has been trying to come up with a future political system for Sudan that allegedly will ensure popular participation in decision-making.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

De Klerk arrives in Morocco

RABAT (R) — South African President F.W. De Klerk arrived in Morocco Monday en route to Europe, in his first visit to an Islamic country. "We have come from the southern tip of Africa to the northern tip. We belong to the same continent: we are leading countries in this continent and have joint responsibilities," he told reporters. De Klerk was to be received by King Hassan and give a news conference before flying Tuesday to the Netherlands and Luxembourg, officials said.

Dutch frigate rescues Iranian seamen

THE HAGUE (R) — A Dutch frigate operating with Western forces in the Gulf rescued eight Iranians after their boat was hit by an unidentified ship, a Dutch marine spokesman said Monday. The Iranians were found Sunday clinging to driftwood near the Strait of Hormuz. Their 15-metre long boat was carrying fruit to Dubai when it was hit. The crew on a Panamanian tanker spotted the Iranians and alerted the Dutch frigate, Witte de With. "They were rescued in a rubber boat and taken to Mina Saqr in the United Arab Emirates," the spokesman said.

Strong quake strikes northern Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A strong earthquake jolted the town of Roudbar in northern Iran Monday morning and also caused panic in the provincial capital of Rasht, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. The geophysics institute of Tehran University said the quake, at 7:20 a.m. (0350 GMT) measured 5.2 degrees Aug. 6.

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Four sentenced to death in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian military court has sentenced four men to be hanged for killing a soldier and wounding another in a knife attack in Alexandria. Military Prosecutor Major General Mohammad Abdulla said the four men, aged between 20 and 54, stabbed Private Yasser Bahgat Mohammad 22 times. His companion Private Nagi Anwar was stabbed in the stomach and back in the Oct. 11 attack. The attackers were professional criminals and had no connection to any political group inside or outside the country, MENA said.

Turkey expects stranded Vietnamese

ANKARA (R) — More than 1,000 Vietnamese stranded in Iraq are likely to enter Turkey this week and fly home after Ankara dropped its refusal to admit them. "We expect about 1,100 Vietnamese to cross through the Habur border gate Monday and Tuesday," a foreign ministry spokesman said Monday. "We do not know if they will be followed by others. If they come of course we will take them." In Hanoi, a Western aid worker quoted the government as saying 1,094 of 16,000 Vietnamese stranded in Iraq would be airlifted home from Turkey Wednesday and Thursday.

Iran, Soviet republic to arrange tours

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and the neighbouring Soviet Republic of Turkmenia have agreed to arrange cross-border pilgrimages and sightseeing tours, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. It quoted the deputy governor-general of Iran's northeastern province of Khorasan, Mohammad Zadeh, as saying the agreement would "help establish friendly relations between people living on both sides of the Iran-Turkmenia border who share a common cultural-religious heritage."

Bulgaria sends delegation to Iraq

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarian Vice-President Atanas Semerjiev flew to Baghdad Monday at the head of an all-party delegation for talks on the release of nearly 700 Bulgarians trapped in Iraq. Bulgarian radio said Semerjiev would hold talks "at the highest level," on the return of the 694 Bulgarians in the country, indicating he would meet Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The delegation included Finance Minister Belchev Belchev and Stoyan Ganev, spokesman for the opposition Union of Democratic Forces. Bulgaria has supported the United Nations sanctions imposed against Iraq.

Pilot killed in UAE air crash

ABU DHABI (AP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) air force jet has crashed during routine exercises, killing the pilot, the official UAE news agency WAM reported. The accident involving a British-made Hawk trainer jet occurred Sunday morning, the agency said. "The plane crashed... and its pilot was martyred," said the agency without providing detail on how the accident occurred. It identified the pilot as Mohammad Ali Bajajef, 24.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

17:00 Montreal, New York (R) Belgrade (R) Other Flights (Terminal 2)
18:00 Tripoli (R) 00:15 Beirut (ME) 00:15 Belgrade (R) 00:15 Beirut (ME)
20:00 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (R) 00:30 Riyadh (SV) 00:30 Riyadh (SV)
21:35 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (R) 00:45 Rome (SU) 00:45 Moscow (SU) 00:45 Moscow (SU)
22:00 Rome (R) 00:55 Rome (R) 00:55 Cairo (MS) 00:55 Cairo (MS)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

00:20 Beirut (ME) Beirut (ME) 00:20 Beirut (ME) 00:20 Beirut (ME)
00:25 Moscow (SU) Moscow (SU) 00:25 Moscow (SU) 00:25 Moscow (SU)
00:35 Riyadh (SV) Riyadh (SV) 00:35 Riyadh (SV) 00:35 Riyadh (SV)
00:45 Rome (MS) Rome (MS) 00:45 Cairo (MS) 00:45 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in \$ per kg.
Apple 650 / 520 Apple 650 / 520
Banana 500 / 450 Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Makassar) 450 / 400 Banana (Makassar) 450 / 400
Beans 350 / 300 Beans 350 / 300
Cabbage 120 / 100 Cabbage 120 / 100
Carrot 250 / 200 Carrot 250 / 200
Cauliflower 180 / 150 Cauliflower 180 / 150
Corn 200 / 150 Corn 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 140 / 100 Cucumbers (large) 140 / 100
Dates (small) 240 / 200 Dates (small) 240 / 200
Eggs 350 / 300 Eggs 350 / 300
Figs 500 / 300 Figs 500 / 300
Garlic 100 / 80 Garlic 100 / 80
Grapes 300 / 250 Grapes 300 / 250
Lemon 150 / 120 Lemon 150 / 120
Lettuce 180 / 150 Lettuce 180 / 150
Mallow 150 / 100 Mallow 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 140 / 100 Marrow (large) 140 / 100
Marrow (small) 240 / 200 Marrow (small) 240 / 200
Onions (dry) 200 / 150 Onions (dry) 200 / 150
Orange 550 / 500 Orange 550 / 500
Olive 600 / 500 Olive 600 / 500
Paprika 100 / 80 Paprika 100 / 80
Pepper (hot) 300 / 250 Pepper (hot) 300 / 250
Pepper (sweet) 150 / 100 Pepper (sweet) 150 / 100
Potato 350 / 300 Potato 350 / 300
Radish 180 / 120 Radish 180 / 120
Lettuce (R) 150 / 120 Lettuce (R) 150 / 120
Tomatoes 100 / 80 Tomatoes 100 / 80

Jordan bars entry to all goods to Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

such sale, or supply or use of such commodities or products."

According to an expert in international law, "there is no ambiguity in the resolution that food and medicine could be sent into Iraq." But, he added, the "crux of the matter is that it should be established that there is indeed a situation which warrants external humanitarian assistance before an external party can send in such goods."

"Apparently, the Americans are not willing to acknowledge that there is any shortage of milk and food in Iraq which warrants a definition of 'humanitarian circumstances' as cited in Resolution 661," added the expert.

"Until now, Jordan did not include food and medicine in its ban order," said a leading businessman. "But instances of such shipments, including the charity convoy of food and milk, were used by some, including the Americans, at the Security Council, to argue that Jordan was not abiding by the sanctions against Iraq when it actually came to discussing compensation for Jordan," he asserted. "It is not simply a question of an embargo against Iraq but also political pressure on Jordan."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said recently that Jordan was being "penalised by Saudi Arabia and the West" despite the Kingdom's strict adherence to the U.N. sanctions.

"Jordan is pushed into the Iraqi camp, into an extremist frame of mind," he said.

Although Jordan has secured pledges totalling about \$400 million from West Germany and Japan to compensate for the Kingdom's losses resulting from the Gulf crisis and sanctions against Iraq, no assistance has actually been received.

The Japanese ambassador, Tadayuki Nakayama, said Monday that he could not give any specific timeframe for Tokyo to deliver \$100 million in soft loans promised to Jordan by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu earlier this month. "We are working hard to get the money to Amman," the ambassador told the Jordan Times. He rejected as baseless reports that Japan was deliberately delaying the assistance to Jordan. Kaifu also promised another \$150 million in two packages, under stricter terms, but no specifics on these have yet been discussed, according to the ambassador.

A West German source said earlier this week that there was no change in Bonn's commitment of \$130 million in assistance to Jordan. The assistance should have reached Jordan by mid-October but "was delayed pending parliamentary approval," the source said. "The amount is not part of the actual government budget and therefore it needs parliament endorsement," the source explained. "We hope it will be coming soon."

Jean Ripert, a special envoy of the United Nations secretary-general, said after a visit to Jordan and assessment of the Kingdom's economic situation that Amman needs immediate financial assistance rather than pledges. "Jordan needs aid today, not tomorrow," he said.

Clause C of Resolution 661 calls on United Nations member states to ban the "sale or supply by their nationals or from their territories or using their flag vessels of any commodities or products, including weapons or any other military equipment, whether or not originating in their territories but not including supplies intended specifically for medical purposes, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs, to any person or body for the purposes of any business carried on in or operated from Iraq or Kuwait, any activity by their nationals or in their territories which promote or are calculated to promote

such sales, or supply or use of such commodities or products."

According to an expert in international law, "there is no ambiguity in the resolution that food and medicine could be sent into Iraq." But, he added, the "crux of the matter is that it should be established that there is indeed a situation which warrants external humanitarian assistance before an external party can send in such goods."

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The Japanese ambassador, Tadayuki Nakayama, said Monday that he could not give any specific timeframe for Tokyo to deliver \$100 million in soft loans promised to Jordan by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu earlier this month. "We are working hard to get the money to Amman," the ambassador told the Jordan Times. He rejected as baseless reports that Japan was deliberately delaying the assistance to Jordan. Kaifu also promised another \$150 million in two packages, under stricter terms, but no specifics on these have yet been discussed, according to the ambassador.

A West German source said earlier this week that there was no change in Bonn's commitment of \$130 million in assistance to Jordan. The assistance should have reached Jordan by mid-October but "was delayed pending parliamentary approval," the source said. "The amount is not part of the actual government budget and therefore it needs parliament endorsement," the source explained. "We hope it will be coming soon."

Jean Ripert, a special envoy of the United Nations secretary-general, said after a visit to Jordan and assessment of the Kingdom's economic situation that Amman needs immediate financial assistance rather than pledges. "Jordan needs aid today, not tomorrow," he said.

Clause C of Resolution 661 calls on United Nations member states to ban the "sale or supply by their nationals or from their territories or using their flag vessels of any commodities or products, including weapons or any other military equipment, whether or not originating in their territories but not including supplies intended specifically for medical purposes, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs, to any person or body for the purposes of any business carried on in or operated from Iraq or Kuwait, any activity by their nationals or in their territories which promote or are calculated to promote

such sales, or supply or use of such commodities or products."

According to an expert in international law, "there is no ambiguity in the resolution that food and medicine could be sent into Iraq." But, he added, the "crux of the matter is that it should be established that there is indeed a situation which warrants external humanitarian assistance before an external party can send in such goods."

"Apparently, the Americans are not willing to acknowledge that there is any shortage of milk and food in Iraq which warrants a definition of 'humanitarian circumstances' as cited in Resolution 661," added the expert.

"Until now, Jordan did not include food and medicine in its ban order," said a leading businessman. "But instances of such shipments, including the charity convoy of food and milk, were used by some, including the Americans, at the Security Council, to argue that Jordan was not abiding by the sanctions against Iraq when it actually came to discussing compensation for Jordan," he asserted. "It is not simply a question of an embargo against Iraq but also political pressure on Jordan."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said recently that Jordan was being "penalised by Saudi Arabia and the West" despite the Kingdom's strict adherence to the U.N. sanctions.

"Jordan is pushed into the Iraqi camp, into an extremist frame of mind," he said.

Although Jordan has secured pledges totalling about \$400 million from West Germany and Japan to compensate for the Kingdom's losses resulting from the Gulf crisis and sanctions against Iraq, no assistance has actually been received.

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Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday holds talks with Mohammad Abdullah Nour, a UNDP envoy (Petra photo)

U.N. envoy on a visit to assess the Kingdom's aid requirements

Jordan appeals to the world to honour aid pledge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday issued an appeal to the United Nations and the rich industrialised nations to come to its aid and to offer the Kingdom fair compensation for the damage inflicted on its economy.

The appeal was made by Prime Minister Mudar Badran at a meeting with a senior United Nations official who is currently on a visit to Jordan to assess the Kingdom's aid requirements, and the economic damage caused by the sanctions against Iraq.

"Jordan was striving to overcome its economic problems when the Gulf crisis broke out causing the country to lose another \$8 billion in expatriates' remittances, and the country is now faced with the problem of 120,000 citizens who lost their jobs and their savings in the Gulf and had to return home," Badran pointed out.

Nour, who is assistant administrator and regional director for the Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), had a meeting with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma who briefed him on the voluntary and charitable services offered through the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

The Princess, who is chairperson of the fund's Board of Trustees, also discussed with Nour ways to increase bilateral cooperation on.

Minister of Agriculture Suliman Arabyat met with Dr. Nour and briefed him on agricultural projects implemented in cooperation with UNDP in Jordan. These include the development of pasture lands and the rain-fed highlands as well as projects for livestock and bee breeding.

Nour requested Arabyat to provide UNDP with detailed studies of these projects as well as the proposals of the Ministry of Agriculture so that sufficient financing can be found in the future.

Senate holds special session, elects members to committees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament met in a special session Monday under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi to review the country's mobilisation and military training programmes.

The Senate studied funds required to finance the programmes and issued an appeal to members of the public to contribute generously towards that cause. Later it was announced that the Senate members have each donated a month's salary to help finance the government's mobilisation programme. The Senate said that the door would remain open for further contributions.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the House's first collection amounted to JD 54,500.

Both houses of Parliament, on Oct. 16, were briefed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran on the government's programmes to provide military training to the public. The government, Badran said, will provide training in schools, community colleges, uni-

versities and main industries.

"So far 150,000 Jordanians have been trained in the use of light weapons and first aid since the People's Army was created in 1985, but the programme of training will continue," he said.

Parliament members had earlier demanded that all public members be trained and that people be armed to be ready to defend their nation in the event of aggression on Jordan.

Badran said that People's Army training programme would increase, and more people would be offered training.

Towards the end of the session the Senate, chose three members: Ishaq Al Farhan, Saeed Al Tal and Khaled Tarawneh to represent it in the follow-up committee grouping members of the Lower House and the government and entrusted with dealing with matters related to the People's Army.

The Senate also elected three other members: Jaafar Shami, Mohammad Budeir and Kamal Al Shaer to represent the House

in the government commission entrusted with raising financial contributions for the People's Army.

Meanwhile, the government announced the formation of a technical committee grouping representatives of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Amman Municipality and the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) to work out a comprehensive study on the condition of shelters in and around the Greater Amman region.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Karim Al Dugmeh said that this step was taken in implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein.

Following the formation of the committee, a draft for its programme was sent to the Prime Minister for approval. Once the committee's programmes have been endorsed, he said, a comprehensive report on the state of the shelters and houses will be published.

Hamad thanked the Canadian government for its contribution which, he said, would assist the government to carry on with its humanitarian work.

Meanwhile, the European Community (EC) announced Sunday that it would pay for the repatriation of a further 10,000 Sri Lankans expected to cross into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait over the coming few weeks, at a cost of \$4.9 million. The move was made in response to a call for assistance from the Sri Lankan government. An agreement between EC and the ambassador of Sri Lanka to Belgium was signed in Brussels on 19.10. 1990.

The airift will take place over a two-week period, with the first batch of passengers expected to be flown out of Amman Monday Oct. 22.

To date, the European Commission has financed the airift of 22,783 Sri Lankans nationals from Amman to Colombo at a cost of \$10.6 million. The total cost of emergency aid provided by the European Commission to the evacuation programme in Jordan has reached \$38 million out of the \$77 million pledged.

Documents will be granted free of charge for those who had previously purchased the documents from the Municipality.

Closing date for accepting bids is 26/11/1990 at 12:00 noon at the same address above.

The European Community

Prince Hassan welcomes France's stand on Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — French President Francois Mitterrand's address to the U.N. General Assembly brought a ray of hope to the world because it stressed the fact that war can be avoided in the Gulf and the world can be saved from its devastating consequences, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in a television interview.

"The views of the Soviet Union, a number of European countries and Japan with regard to this issue also provide additional rays of hope," said the Prince in an interview with the French Television, presented Sunday evening.

He said His Majesty King Hussein had been striving to end the Gulf crisis by peaceful means and had secured Iraq's consent to withdraw from Kuwait, but the opportunity was lost in the course of events.

"Despite this, Jordan believes that it can play a role together with the rest of the Arab countries to bring about a peaceful settlement," Prince Hassan said.

"Through Amman, the world is communicating with Baghdad, and the Jordanian capital has been serving as a diplomatic channel for attaining a political settlement," Prince Hassan pointed out.

He said that certain Western and Arab countries accuse Jordan of siding with Iraq, but Amman has already condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and has clearly pointed out that it can by no means condone the annexation of other countries, territories by force, as Israel did to Jerusalem. He noted that Jordan had been trying to preserve its own independent views and that it was better for the world to have Jordan play this important role as channel of communication and connection with Iraq.

The Prince, who is chairperson of the fund's Board of Trustees, also discussed with Nour ways to increase bilateral cooperation on.

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Leave it to peacemakers

THE BRITISH prime minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, told Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov on Saturday that her government rejected any compromise over the Gulf crisis that Moscow and Paris are trying to promote as a peaceful way out of the stalemate. U.S. President George Bush had apparently taken a similar position in the wake of Primakov's recent talks with him.

Fortunately only Washington and London are against any form of compromise with Baghdad, suggesting therefore that they prefer a military confrontation there. What is most puzzling in the declared position of Bush and Thatcher is the fact that they talk as if Kuwait and the Gulf were their own property. What right do the U.S. and Britain have to accept or reject a political solution to the Kuwaiti situation, except that they have forces stationed there? We would have thought that the Kuwaiti government was the most concerned party and it is for it and it alone to take or leave a compromise. Secondly, if war is rejected as a means to resolve the Gulf crisis and negotiation is the remaining same option left for the parties to pursue, then the concerned parties must be prepared to compromise in order to attain the objectives of negotiations. All concerned states need to at least satisfy some of their objectives before any such negotiations can be fruitful. This is the essence of negotiations. Of all capitals, Washington and London should be the first to comprehend the intricacies of the situation. As the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait is a long standing one touching upon disputed territory and other issues, it would seem sensible to discuss such territorial disputes here and now in order to encourage Iraq to sit on the negotiating table instead of forcing it to precipitate a major conflagration in the Gulf region. As Moscow and Paris appear ready and able to entertain a compromise formula in the Gulf, the U.S. and Britain are likewise called upon to manifest more reasonableness in the search for a permanent settlement of the Kuwaiti situation. It must be recalled that the Iraqi military action in Kuwait did not occur in a vacuum. It was the result of historical, geographical and economic problems. The Saudi Arabian defence minister's declaration Sunday that Iraq's legitimate claims against Kuwait can still be negotiated in a brotherly fashion appears to give another glimmer of hope that Riyadh is also entertaining an amicable compromise in the Gulf crisis. What better way is there then than to encourage the Arabs themselves to prepare the ground for a settlement between Iraq and Kuwait and to bring in the international community later to reach a global resolution to the conflict? Washington and London's obstinate efforts to frustrate the dedicated efforts of the Soviet Union, France, and some other Arab countries, like Jordan, could spell disaster for all sides and hopes for lasting peace. They should moderate their stance, give peace a chance, or else leave it to others to try and avoid an imminent catastrophe.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Intensive pressure being exerted on Jordan now a days can only reflect a determined effort on the part of hostile forces to end the country's steadfastness and to sell out its national stand and future generations, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The United States and the other imperialist forces are living in illusion if they believe that such pressure would force Jordan to join the U.S.-led foreign intervention in the Arabian Peninsula. "A and array its forces against Iraq, the paper added. What the Americans and their allies are doing now is imposing an embargo on Jordan and its international trade; and this is a very dangerous game because should it continue, it would mean a declaration of war on the Jordanian people by trying to starve its children and paralyzing its economic life, the paper pointed out. It said that Jordan and the Jordanian people can by no means accept to place their heads under the American boots, and the Jordanian people can by no means allow their armed forces to serve as mercenary troops serving the aims and objectives of the enemies of the Arab Nation. What the imperialist forces aim to achieve now, the paper said, is to involve Jordan and its people and armed forces in the process of weakening the Arab Nation and stemming its growth and progress. Washington, London and the other capitals which are now hatching conspiracies against the Arab Nation should realize before it is too late the Jordan which has been exposed to hardships and pressures holds many winning cards, and will act in time and in a manner to abort all conspiracies, the paper warned.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday criticised the public administration system in Jordan for lacking a clear cut policy for retiring government employees, and says that the way the process has been adopted so far is resented by civil servants and members of the public alike. Salah Abdul Samad refers in his column to a recent government decision to retire several governors at the Ministry of Interior, a process which, he says, happens now and then without any proper explanation to the retired persons or the civil servants at large. The writer says that no government employee welcomes the idea of being retired before reaching 60 years of age or serving for 30 years and indeed his or her achievements during the long service in government departments won them experience that should not be easily disposed off. The writer notes that the governors retired a few days ago have the right to know the reason for the decision especially since they had offered a great service and accomplished many achievements for the state. He also says that the public administration system in Jordan should lay down specific rules and sets of criteria to be followed for retiring government employees and that humane methods should be followed in informing the retired person of his or her end of services, not through a telephone conversation or a mere note on his or her desk in the morning.

The View from Fourth Circle

The Marlboro men of morality's last ride

By Rami G. Khoury

There are positive indications from several quarters today that the chances of resolving the crisis in the Gulf through peaceful negotiations may be greater than the prospects of a destructive military shootout. The underlying political and psychological dynamics that have run their course in the past month are significant.

1. It should be clear by now that the initial reason or excuse which the American-led Western forces used for sending about 300,000 troops to the Gulf is inaccurate and invalid. That excuse was the protection of Saudi Arabia from an alleged Iraqi threat to attack Saudi Arabia and its oil fields.

No such threat ever existed.

Therefore, there could be fertile diplomatic ground to explore the possibility of thinning out or changing the command structure of Western forces in the Gulf through an inter-Arab and international arrangement that would assure the security and territorial inviolability of Saudi Arabia. If this were assured, with adequate guarantees that could include great power and intra-Arab commitments through the Security Council, we would take a large step towards defusing the conflict. This would be a crucial first step towards securing an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and resolving bilateral Iraqi-Kuwaiti disputes.

2. The international embargo against Iraq will soon start to have a significant impact. It is important to remember that the Western forces entered the Gulf in order to protect Saudi Arabia and enforce the embargo against Iraq. The embargo itself was the key mechanism which the world agreed upon to force an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

3. Western public opinion is slowly but surely indicating some second thoughts about

the wisdom and the scope of the Western troop build-up in the Gulf. The American budget problem has highlighted the folly and the untenability of the belief that America is using its resources to assure a new post-Cold War world order.

The grassroots wisdom and rationality of the American people are making themselves felt, at last, and American politicians are taking note. To reduce the medical benefits of elderly Americans in order to assure the profits of Texan citizens through neo-colonial thrusts half way around the world is a rather repulsive prologue to a new world order of law and justice. It is also a rather sick joke at the expense of ordinary honourable American principles.

4. Widespread and growing Arab and international efforts to promote a negotiated settlement portend enhanced chances of success in the future. French and Soviet efforts are probably the most noteworthy in this respect. Though a dramatic breakthrough is not expected, we can assume that the pace and scope of the search for diplomatic progress is a sign that the forces of reason will prevail over the forces of militarism.

5. The continued force of anti-American and anti-British sentiment in the region, in the face of the greatest single military mobilisation since World War II, should make it clear to Bush, Thatcher & Co. that the people of much of the Arab World have embarked on an important historical phase of their 500-year-old struggle against foreign imperial and colonial interference. Even if a war breaks out and Iraq is militarily checked or defeated, we would find ourselves at the start of a long-term and probably violent cycle of Arab-Western confrontation. Such a

development would be costly and divisive, and would serve nobody's long-term interests. It should be avoided, if possible.

6. Most important of all, I think, the chances of negotiations are enhanced by the fact that Iraq can be seen to have achieved virtually all of its political objectives. Therefore it can afford to withdraw from Kuwait according to terms that would be acceptable to itself, the Western forces allied against it, and the other Arabs who are calling for a negotiated solution free of Western military threats. In this respect, I would list Iraq's political achievements as follows:

a. It has sent a clear message to the Gulf states that they are vulnerable and perhaps even untenable entities that cannot expect to be left alone if they pursue arrogant policies that threaten the livelihood and national security of other Arab peoples. The political order in the Gulf which the British left behind in the first half of this century has proved itself to be a cruel fiction. It may have served British imperial interests decades ago, but it has been a resounding failure in terms of its ability to assure the Arab people of a life of honesty, justice, productivity, security and dignity.

Such an order can and should exist only on the basis of marshalling Arab resources in the service of pan-Arab goals, interests and aspirations, within a broader international order based on justice and mutual interests. It cannot exist on the basis of make-believe, miniature countries that have to scurry under the armour of American and British troops, and it cannot perpetuate financial flows that serve the interests of Western banks and oil companies before they serve the dreams and hopes of

200 million other fellow Arabs. Iraq has made the world come to grips with the reality that an Arab World destined to live with grotesque economic distortions and disequilibrium will reach the point where its people rise up and rebel against an unjust and untenable order that was formulated by the British and French and sustained by the Israelis and Americans.

b. It has sent a message to Israel that the Arab people will not forever remain docile and quiescent before the reality of an Israeli state that seeks to be a predatory regional superpower. It has made the world recognise that peace and stability in the Gulf or any other part of the Middle East are unattainable if Palestine, through the political fear and economic greed of the great powers, is ordained to remain in a state of injustice and instability. It has shown the West that its celebration of a new post-Cold War political order is partial and premature, as long as five million Palestinians and many millions of other Arabs in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan continue to suffer a debilitating national agony.

c. It has sent a message to the international community of nations that the global instrument of a just and stable world order — the United Nations and its Security Council and General Assembly resolutions — cannot be taken seriously if the legal dictates of that world order are applied selectively in different countries. If Iraq should not occupy and colonise Kuwait — and certainly it should not — then Israel should not occupy and colonise Palestine, and the United States should not finance that Israeli occupation and colonisation.

The zealotry that has characterised the international re-

sponse to Kuwait must be repeated with equal vigour in other conflicts in which one people is unjustly aggrieved by another. Last week, we saw the sickening spectacle of the United States government working overtime at the United Nations to generate a resolution on a fact-finding mission to Palestine that would be toothless and meaningless. If the United States and its partners shift into over-drive for Kuwait but stall in neutral for Palestine, they cannot expect anything other than the kind of disdain which they have generated from many parts of the Arab World this month.

d. And, Iraq has sent a message to the Western powers that their tradition of imperial and colonial control of Arab lands and resources must come to an end, in the same way that the Soviet empire has ended in Europe. Unwittingly or not, the Iraqis have rekindled the spark of pan-Arab nationalism that has remained in the hearts of all Arabs for all of this century. This does not mean that Saddam Hussein will be chosen as the leader of the Arabs, or that other Arab peoples will choose to emulate the domestic political system which prevails in Iraq. But it does mean that tens of millions of Arabs are standing up once again and forcefully telling the Americans and the British that we will not, as we did earlier this century, stand by idly as foreign troops threaten us with a political and economic order which has been shown to be a failure in all respects, whether in terms of our domestic life, regional integration or international relationships.

It is unfortunate that it required the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to bring these points to the attention of the world. This does not justify Iraq's actions or support its present posture.

One would have preferred that these lessons could have been learned without the subjugation of Kuwait. But, this is the reality of what has happened in the past 11 weeks. More important, perhaps, it could help point the way out of the present crisis.

The essential fact has been established: this is not a conflict only about Iraq and Kuwait, much as the West's Marlboro men of morality's last ride.

Despite the emotionalism and heightened tensions of the moment, we should not lose sight of the fact that the aspirations of the Arabs and the objectives of the West still can be achieved simultaneously — the freedom of Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, and a rational, stable, Arab order which responds to the aspirations of all Arabs, and not only those with gold credit cards drawn on the Imperial Bank of Bush and Thatcher. The aspirations of all concerned can be achieved simultaneously — if there is sufficient clarity of mind, honesty of history and coolness of nerves to appreciate the full dimensions of the present situation on the ground and in people's hearts and minds.

Germany can't stop worrying and learn to love communists

By Andrew Gumbel
Reuter

Affairs Erich Paetzold, still believes the PDS transferred the money illegally to Norway and the Netherlands and says he had to act fast before evidence disappeared.

But political observers agree that a similar raid on one of the mainstream parties would be unthinkable.

"The PDS hasn't been banned. It must be given the same rights as anyone else," said Burkhard Hirsch, a senior member of the Liberal Free Democrats.

His view is not shared by Lutz Stavenhagen, state secretary responsible for the secret services, who said in an interview published on Sunday that the PDS might be a security risk.

"Our intelligence officials are carefully checking whether the PDS has acted or spoken out against the constitution... and whether we should keep watch on them," he told *Die Zeit* magazine.

The PDS's previous incarnation, the Socialist Unity Party (SED), headed an authoritarian state kept in check by a vast security police network, the Stasi.

The party took over prime property throughout East Germany. Its disgraced former leaders are under investigation for embezzling state funds for their own or the party's profit.

They were looking for evidence of an alleged fraud worth 100 million marks (\$67 million) but came away empty-handed.

The man who ordered the raid, Berlin's Councillor for Internal

part of a long-term plan to pressurise the Palestinians to the East of the Jordan River.

Against this background, it is hardly surprising that refugee camps are decorated with Palestinian and Iraqi flags and combined portraits of Arafat and Saddam Hussein. No one else has offered to relieve generations of injustice, suffering and humiliation. At last it appears that a fellow Arab has the power to deliver.

For such people, an Arab dictator, however brutal, crucified on the cross of Western self-interest will be as potent as alive. He should not have invaded Kuwait and should be removed by appropriate means. But to Arabs suffering under the Israeli yoke, the Gulf crisis is about cheap and plentiful oil to the "haves" of the West — and the unmerited protection of Israel. Other occupations go unreversed. Double standards prevail.

To remove Saddam Hussein without securing justice for the Palestinians would produce an enduring and seismic Arab reaction against those responsible. Thus are the Palestine and Gulf crisis linked.

Tony Marlow.
(Con, Northampton North),
House of Commons,
London SW1.

Israel's role in the Gulf crisis

The following two letters to the editor are reprinted from the *Guardian* newspaper under the above headline.

The decision by the government of Israel not to cooperate with the United Nations Security Council investigating last week's killings of Arabs in Jerusalem (Guardian, October 15) is hard to understand. But even more puzzling is the attitude of Israel's allies in Washington, without whom Israel would itself become an easy prey to Arab aggression — as easy as Kuwait; there has been some grandly righteous posturing about that in Washington, but no one seems to have taken account of the comparable crimes perpetrated by Israel in the Arab territories west of the Jordan.

Meanwhile Saddam Hussein has drawn attention to this other lamentable situation and offered to withdraw provided Israel withdraws. He probably wouldn't, but that doesn't alter the moral situation.

Those of us who fear his pretensions, yet say or do nothing about the West Bank, have in him the enemy we deserve, especially those who as Christians have supported Israel on the grounds of merely Biblical affirmations of Israel's right to the Land west of Jordan and the Dead Sea.

Arabs living within Israel would not recognise that country as the benign and liberal democracy which its apologists present. Their reality is of a fascist tyranny devoid of respect for human rights and in which they as Arabs are treated as racial inferiors.

Suspicion has grown that martial law will be declared to keep Ms. Bhutto out of power, although top generals deny it. The army and the president wouldn't kick her out just to let her return three months later, the argument goes.

After 11 weeks of name-calling and nearly a dozen unresolved court cases, 50 million voters will be eligible to deliver their verdict Wednesday.

Economists say Pakistan is in for hard times because of a large debt, dwindling reserves, higher oil prices and a sharp decline in exports.

Whether she will be permitted to resume office has been a nagging question ever since Ms.

pitted against the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), a loose coalition spanning the ideological spectrum and united only by opposition to Ms. Bhutto.

At stake are 217 seats in the National Assembly, the law-making lower house of parliament that elects the prime minister.

Pakistani campaigns usually are noisy, but this one has been relatively quiet, reflecting the cynicism of an electorate that has seen too many promises broken and democracy derailed too many times in the country's 43-year history.

Few will disagree that Ms. Bhutto's administration was disappointing.

Her inexperience and allegations of widespread corruption drained the large reservoir of goodwill that made her the first woman to lead a modern Muslim nation.

More than anything, both critics and supporters say, her

downfall stemmed from growing reliance on middlemen and a policy of giving party supporters jobs, contracts and other rewards.

"We made mistakes, no doubt about it," Ms. Bhutto said in the interview. "Any government is going to have differences of perceptions, but it's in the national interest that they be resolved."

Her opponents were plagued by internal rivalries, and growing impatience in the military indicated things weren't going as the generals planned.

Most analysts predict neither side will win a decisive majority, giving the civilian and military establishment room to form a coalition government that will keep Ms. Bhutto out of power.

Still, her political organisation could emerge as the largest single party, as in November 1988.

Analysts predict the Pakistan People's Party will sweep Sindh, the former prime minister's home province, and possibly win Punjab.

jab, her opponents' stronghold and the largest and most populous province.

The party has been perceived as the party of the poor and downtrodden since Ms. Bhutto's father founded it nearly 30 years ago. Ms. Bhutto inherited his mass support.

She still faces the threat of disqualification because of the half dozen court cases pending against her.

Ms. Bhutto predicted the caretaker government would make a last-ditch attempt to pressure the special tribunals to exclude her from politics.

Even if they succeed, she said, there is still her mother's support with.

"These little guys think it's that easy to get rid of the Bhuttos," she asked with a grin. "They shouldn't forget the name Begum Nusrat Bhutto."

Features

Free market policy freed from smuggling

By Kathleen Callo
Reuter

said. "Instead of paying for those imports, we are spending one quarter of that amount on smuggled consumer goods."

The success of the government's anti-smuggling drive was evident in the last week of September when the black market rates for the U.S. dollar and gold — a more accurate indicator of conditions than the state bank rates — fell to their lowest levels in months, economists said.

One dollar bought 4,000 dong in April and soared to 7,000 dong by mid-September, but it dipped suddenly to 5,800 dong in the last week of September when demand for dollars slumped as police clamped down on smugglers, economists said.

The government has introduced new rules requiring local companies to register with the state and obtain import licences, and has dispatched extra customs guards to border regions.

Several people were killed along the southwestern border with Cambodia in clashes between Vietnamese customs police and smugglers, one economist said.

Hanoi banned the import of all foreign cigarettes from Oct. 1 to protect local cigarette production.

Police in 19 provinces foiled attempts to smuggle in 721,000 cartons of foreign cigarettes valued at 10 billion dong (\$3 million) between Aug. 3 and Oct. 2, the army newspaper Quan Doi Nhan Dan reported. They recovered more than one billion dong (\$167,000) in taxes.

About 80 per cent of smuggled goods come from Thailand — by sea or by land across Cambodia and Laos — and the rest from China, said Le Xuan Nghia, an economist at the government's Institute for Scientific Research of Market and Price.

"It's a big problem for Vietnam's economy because those things smuggled in from Thailand are not being taxed," Nghia said in an interview.

Hanoi cannot afford to see precious foreign exchange used to finance contraband. Exports totalled only \$1.8 billion in 1989, Nghia said. A similar figure was expected this year.

"We have to use that hard currency to pay for oil products and other production materials, equipment and technology," he

became an irreversible process."

Mouse traps still a source of human fascination

By Julia Hayley
Reuter

BEDWAS, Wales — The French favour of a line of garottes, which can strangle up to 10 at a time.

In 18th century England people balanced a solid oak block which thundered down to crush an infiltrator at the slightest jolt.

Mouse traps have fascinated some of the world's best inventors for hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

"If a man write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap... the world will make a beaten path to his door," Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote last century.

But designing mousetrap is not as simple as it may sound.

Jeremy Procter's mousetrap museum in this Welsh village is full of examples of traps that failed as well as those that succeeded.

Various modern plastic traps

— intended to catch the mouse alive — failed to account for the animal's ability to turn round in a tight space.

Those designed to be humane are not necessarily so. The mouse often dies of fright or starves to death, Procter says.

An elegant African trap in his collection is made from woven thorn tree twigs with the thorns pointing inwards like barbs on a fish hook.

One of the most dramatic is a replica of an ancient Egyptian trap used in tombs to stop rats and mice eating the offerings of food and probably the bodies too, Procter says.

It is a shoe-box sized clay box with four slits in each side and a neat oval trap door triggered by the mouse or rat eating the bait at the far end.

Procter, director of Procter Brothers — makers of Little Nipper mousetraps — confesses to being a fanatical muscipologist.

(mousetrap collector).

"It's a confrontation between man and nature on a scale that even the most timid of us can manage," he says.

The ingenuity people have applied to this problem over the years is very appealing."

The golden age for mousetrap invention was the second half of the last centuries, Procter says. A catalogue dated 1898-1900 has a rich variety of cages, springs, spikes and chutes.

Peak usage in Britain was probably during the post World War II slum clearances.

For those outside the slums, mice have been somewhat of an embarrassment, says John Parry, who has worked in Procter's mousetrap factory for 38 years.

Mice are traditionally associated with dirt and people often do not want their neighbours to know they have mice.

Mousetrap sales used to be "a plain brown wrapper, under the

counter job," according to Procter. Even now, Parry says, local research shows people in this part of Wales will often go to another town where they are not known to buy their traps.

Traps are still the most effective method of killing mice, he says.

"Poison will never outdo traps: They take 24 hours to work and in that time the mouse can have mated with another, and the offspring may be immune."

And mice are not far behind rabbits in their breeding capacity, Parry says. They start breeding at eight weeks and a pair can produce 2,500 offspring in a year.

With mild winters and plentiful litter on the streets mice and rats are flourishing, Procter says.

Sales look good.

Traps do not have to be complex. Sometimes the simplest designs work best, he says.

Procter Brothers' Little Nipper mousetrap, which the firm claims

is the world's best-selling, is unchanged from its 1898 design.

It is one of many variations of the breakback trap — a simple block of wood with a powerful spring that snaps shut on the mouse's head.

Procter says it needs a force of 2.5 pounds (1.1 kilos) to kill a mouse cleanly. The Little Nipper gives a mouse 10.38 milliseconds to escape.

Even if the 20th century has produced few of the best traps, modern civilisation does have something to offer in mouse baiting.

Cheese is out of fashion. Peanut butter is in.

Anything sweet will do, Parry says. Chocolate or raisins can also work, but if you use a dry piece of bait a clever mouse will lift it off.

"But within the old nobility there was a good deal of jealousy — they wanted their own daughters to be selected," said Hamao, who also oversaw the education of one of Akihito's sons, the crown prince. "The opposition to Michiko remains strong to this day."

Michiko met then Crown Prince Akihito on a tennis court in 1957. Not only did Michiko and her partner win the doubles

Religion vs army battle continues in Burma

By Kevin Cooney
Reuter

BANGKOK — The army and the Buddhist faith, the dual centres of Burma's split personality, are in mortal conflict over the decision by many monks to protest against military rule by simply doing nothing.

Soldiers have surrounded three monasteries in Mandalay and it looks like they plan to go in," an informed source in the capital, Rangoon, told Reuters by telephone.

Monks say two of their colleagues were shot dead in August during an anti-government demonstration in Mandalay. Since then, many monks have refused to accept alms from soldiers or tend to the religious needs of their families.

Soldiers have had to wed and welcome the births of their children without blessings and bury their dead without benefit of clergy.

Senior monks have demanded that General Saw Maung, head of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) apologise on national radio and television for the incident.

"I have tolerated as much as I can and you, my teachers, can see that I have also been doing whatever is necessary. I have decided to take measures that should be taken," Saw Maung told a gathering of abbots last week.

He told them the situation in Burma today reminded him of the problems faced by King Anamrahta, who ruled a vast realm from the city of Pagan from 1044 to 1077.

Anamrahta made war against a group of secessionist priests in northern Burma and sent tens of thousands of their followers into exile.

Mandalay, the main northern city of modern Burma, was at the centre of 1988's anti-government campaign and has remained relatively.

"Monks are the last challenge for the government," the Rangoon source said.

He said the National League for Democracy, which overwhelmingly won an election in May only to be refused any role in government by the army, was "important at the moment."

Another diplomat based in the capital said he would not rule out wholesale arrests of clergymen.

A Burma analyst at a Western embassy in Bangkok saw the government's ban as "a major escalation of the situation."

"They (the ruling generals) are obviously very worried," he added. "I don't see how either side can back down. Messing with religion in Burma is a very dodgy business."



The emperor and empress of Japan

Broken traditions continue to draw frowns in Japan

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

TOKYO — When the heir to Japan's throne announced more than 30 years ago that he would wed a commoner, the nation's former aristocracy lamented the end of an era.

Six months later, the statement still dogs Michiko.

"It (the statement) was just too big an error," said Pierre Azancet, a 69-year-old former radio broadcaster from Montreal.

The party says individual rights have been trampled on by a government yielding to the collective will of the French-speaking majority.

In 1988, the liberal government headed by Robert Bourassa invoked a controversial clause in the constitution to override a federal high court ruling and push through the law on shop signs. The court had said the law

violated individual freedom of expression.

"There are many ways to promote and preserve and enrich the vitality of the French language without the recourse of language restrictions," said 29-year-old party leader Robert Libman, nicknamed the "boy leader."

Libman infuriated French Quebecers earlier this year when he said the province's English speakers were in some respects worse off than French Canadians in the rest of Canada. He sought police protection after receiving dozens of death threats.

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match against the future monarch, she also won his affection. They were wed April 10, 1959.

And, Watanabe said, without the precedent set by Michiko, the wedding early this summer of the royal couple's younger son, Prince Akihito, to another commoner, Princess Kiko, might not have been possible.

Kiko is the daughter of a professor of far humbler means than Michiko's wealthy father, and was being an avid tennis player, the empress is said to be fluent in English and an accomplished harp and piano player.

The warm smile for which Michiko was known has been replaced with a quiet reserve over the years, and fatigue is often clear in her expression.

She met with a great deal of opposition along the way, and in her face you could tell when her life was particularly difficult," said Midori Watanabe, a professor of women's studies at Bunka Women's University.

Hamao, who served the imperial family for 30 years, described Michiko as strong-willed, thoughtful and "clever, but not wise."

"She is too concerned with her popularity, and has her servants go out and buy weekly women's magazines to see what they are writing about her," Hamao said in an interview. "The emperor would not worry about such things."

He said that although Michiko is not a Christian, her Catholic education gave her a strong sense of perseverance and the ability to withstand the pressures of her rank.

Watanabe, a former reporter

who covered the palace for more than two decades for a Japanese television network, described Michiko's impact on the throne as "historic, reflecting the democratic society of postwar Japan."

"She has done more to open up the palace to the people than

anyone else," Watanabe said. "Just being who she is has also attracted the nation to her."

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Sri Lanka to request more aid

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka will ask for \$350 million in aid from developed countries and donor agencies at a meeting in Paris Tuesday, a finance ministry official said Monday. The aid request "will be to meet a myriad of economic problems plus the big one caused by the Gulf crisis," said finance ministry spokesman Prabath Manawasinghe. The request, if approved, would be \$104 million more than Sri Lanka received last year. Officials estimate Sri Lanka's losses at three billion rupees (\$75 million) this year as a consequence of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. That figure includes \$32.5 million in remittances from 90,000 Sri Lankans working in Kuwait and an oil bill \$25 million higher than expected.

Biggest bank in U.S. posts 38% profit drop

NEW YORK (R) — Citicorp, the biggest banking company in the United States, has said its profits slumped 38 per cent in the third quarter of the year. The gloom at Citicorp underscored the jitters spreading through much of the banking industry as the economy sputters, and the bank predicted the worst was far from over as it joined a string of big banks hit by delinquent real estate loans.

Manufacturers Hanover Corp., the eighth-largest U.S. bank, meanwhile reported a profit of \$77 million for the quarter but set aside millions to cover potential loan defaults.

Earnings at Citicorp, Manufacturers Hanover and other big banks might have been even worse had it not been for strong profits from foreign currency trading, industry analysts said.

New York-based Citicorp wrote off \$201 million and put aside another \$82 million in the quarter, largely to cover delinquent real estate loans and write-offs on leveraged buyouts.

This ate into its net income, which fell to \$221 million, or 56 cents a share, from \$358 million, or 99 cents a share, in the third quarter of 1989.

"Citicorp believes that it has aggressively responded to deterioration of domestic real estate values... (but) this market has not yet stabilised," the company said.

Citicorp shares fell on the report, losing \$1.125 to close at \$13 on the New York Stock Exchange, where it was the most active issues.

U.S. tobacco exports surge

PRINCETON, New Jersey (AP) — The U.S. tobacco industry recorded a trade surplus of \$2.5 billion for the first half of 1990, an increase of \$54 billion from the same period last year, an industry group has said. The United States exported \$2.95 billion worth of tobacco products and raw leaf during the first six months of 1990, according to Thomas Slane, a vice-president of the Tobacco Merchants Association. The bulk of this, \$2.2 billion, was finished products, including shipments of 73.7 billion cigarettes worth \$2.05 billion. The United States imported \$463 million worth of tobacco during the first half of the year, most of which was bulk leaf, Slane said. The United States ran an overall trade deficit of \$41.1 billion during the first half of the year. Slane attributed the increased surplus to the lowering of trade barriers against American cigarettes.

Oman's oil-driven economy to reap windfall from high prices this year

DUBAI (R) — Oman is looking forward to a windfall from higher world oil prices this year due to the Gulf crisis, after the government announced better than expected economic figures for 1989.

Independent economists said the largely-desert sultanate of about 1.3 million people, where government spending is a key indicator of overall growth, might even achieve a budget surplus in 1990 after years of deficits.

"Final government accounts for 1989... show significant increases in revenues, a moderate expansion in expenditure, and a notable improvement in the fiscal position" over previous forecasts, the central bank said in a report. The latest figures from the

bank, received in Dubai, showed gross domestic product (GDP) grew 16.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1990 over the same period a year ago.

GDP at current prices in 1989 grew 10.4 per cent to \$3.23 billion (S\$8.5 billion) after a 2.6 per cent fall in 1988, the bank said.

The key to economic performance is revenue from the state-run oil sector, which in 1989 accounted for more than 80 per cent of total revenues and about two-thirds of spending.

Oman has for years followed a conservative policy when estimating the price it expects for its oil in the coming budget year. A world oil glut in the 1980s justified its caution.

Central bank figures showed 1989 revenues rose 12.6 per cent to 1.35 billion riyals (\$3.55 billion) while expenditure rose 5.4 per cent to 1.64 billion (4.3 billion).

Oman's long-term strategy is to develop the non-oil sectors of its economy, particularly farming and fisheries, with its oil revenue.

Proven oil reserves of some 20 billion barrels are small by Gulf standards, but Oman manages to produce around 700,000 barrels per day.

With an eye on oil prices in the 1990s, Oman signed a \$500 million contract last week with U.S. firm Brown and Root to increase output by up to 150,000 barrels per day.

The provisional 1990 deficit was set at \$13.4 million riyals (\$823 million).

Oil prices fall to \$30

NEW YORK (AP) — Crude oil futures prices plummeted more than \$3 a barrel in heavy trading Monday amid optimism that a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis may be on the horizon.

Prices tumbled in London and plunged when trading shifted to New York as the markets reacted to comments by Saudi Arabian defence minister Prince Sultan, who suggested that Arab countries were willing to grant Iraq "all its rights."

"The statement has really gotten the markets unsettled," said Andrew Lebow, an analyst with E.D.F. and Man International Inc. "There is some expectation that maybe an Arab-proposed solution... is in the cards."

Market observers called Sultan's comments the most conciliatory since the crisis began.

In early dealings on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the contract for November delivery of light, sweet crude was off \$3.14 at \$30.65 a 42-gallon barrel. The contract had traded briefly below \$30 before inching higher.

The decline comes on the heels of further losses Friday, when the November contract settled down \$3.01 a barrel.

Earlier in London, North Sea Brent blend crude oil for December delivery fell to \$29.10 a barrel in early afternoon trading from \$32.40 late Friday.

Prices of refined products also fell sharply. The contract for wholesale unleaded gasoline for November delivery, which lost more than 5 cents Friday, was trading at 80.75 cents a gallon (3.8 litres) on the New York Merc, down a steep 7.16 cents. Home heating oil was down 7.01 cents a gallon at 80.90 cents after the near-term contract lost 8.11 cents Friday.

The market interpreted Sultan's comments as a sign that Saudi Arabia was prepared to agree to Kuwait ceding some land to Iraq. Traders pushed prices lower on the belief that this development might lead to a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis.

Activity in London was fairly light as many traders stayed on the sidelines waiting out the decline. The Soviet Union is the world's largest crude oil producer and needs to export as much as it can to benefit from the current high prices.

The Soviet Union looks certain to record its second consecutive trade deficit this year after 13 years of surpluses.

Although imports remained stable during the first nine months of 1990, exports fell by 12 per cent, mainly due to a drop in trade with the countries in Eastern Europe. Until the political revolutions of 1989, these formed part of a close-knit Soviet Bloc.

Most alarming was the performance of the oil industry.

The Soviet Union is the world's largest crude oil producer and needs to export as much as it can to benefit from the current high

prices to cut its hard currency deficit.

But the dilapidated state of the industry's equipment is taking its toll.

Exports of crude oil in the

first nine months of 1990 fell 6.3

million tonnes, while production slumped 23.5 million tonnes to 433 million tonnes.

Petrol production fell five per

cent and exports fell by 2.1 mil-

lion tonnes (S\$9.7 billion).

Imports of meat shot up 71

per cent, while those of tea rose

25 per cent and grain 17 per cent.

Consumer goods accounted for 36 per cent of all imports.

Families spent five per cent

more on food and 12 per cent

on fuel and foodstuffs rose 5.6 per

cent.

Inflation rose nine per cent.

Independent economists say it is

now running at 20 per cent or

more.

The shortage of goods

boosted black market prices,

which are forecast to rise by 200

to 300 per cent by the end of

1990.

The time lost through strikes

and other disputes increased by

60 per cent and cost more than

one billion roubles (\$1.95 billion).

On average, 50,000 people

a day were absent from work due

to strikes.

Unemployment was calcu-

lated at two million, but Gos-

komstat said only 137.5 million

people out of the 164 million

capable of working were in em-

ployment. It gave no explanation

for the apparent discrepancy.

Soviet economy worsens in first 9 months of '90

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has released details of falling production and living standards, after parliament approved an historic switch to a market economy.

The state statistics committee Goskomstat published figures showing falling industrial output and declining exports of crude oil, a major hard currency earner, during the first nine months of this year.

"The figures... bear witness to a further intensification of the crisis in society. Production continued to fall... the economy became more unmanageable," said Andrew Lebow, an analyst with E.D.F. and Man International Inc.

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Mahathir routs opponents to win Malaysia elections

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad began a third term in power Monday after routing a combined opposition challenge in Malaysia's general election to emerge with a comfortable two-thirds majority.

His 10-member multi-racial National Front Coalition took 127 of the 180 parliamentary seats in the weekend polls, Malaysia's eighth since independence in 1957.

"This shows that the people want a strong government," Mahathir, 64, told reporters early Monday.

Malaysian share prices opened strongly after the victory, with the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange composite index climbing 16.15 points or 3.4 per cent to 492.98 by midday Monday.

Leading the surge were companies linked to Mahathir's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party, the dominant partner in the coalition.

With the two-thirds majority, Mahathir can push through legislation in parliament easily and need not fear threats of defection

from coalition members.

Opposition leader Razaleigh Hamzah, 53, whom analysts said would be the biggest challenge to Mahathir since he took office in 1981, admitted his alliance performed below expectations.

Razaleigh's Semangat 46 (Spirit of 46) party, which broke from Mahathir's UMNO, won only seven of the 12 parliamentary seats it held previously. Its deputy leader, Rais Yatim, lost to a relative unknown.

Analysts said the opposition's failure to make significant gains in the parliamentary polls showed that Razaleigh had far less support among politically dominant Malays than he thought.

"Semangat's goals, including denying Mahathir the two-thirds majority, have failed," political scientist Murugesu Pathmanathan said. "It speaks well of the faith the people have in the Kit Siang."

Another opposition success was in the Borneo state of Sabah where the Bersatu Sabah Party (PBS), consisting mostly of Roman Catholic Kadazan tribespeople, won 14 of 20 parliamentary seats. It defected from

The Malays were confused over Razaleigh's ambitions, the analyst said. "The best thing they did was to go back to where they stood before."

There was some comfort for Razaleigh in his home state of Kelantan where the opposition took all 13 parliamentary seats, ousted Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen, Deputy Agriculture Minister Mohamed Kasim Ahmad and state Chief Minister Mohamed Yacob, and won all 39 state assembly seats.

Other government casualties were Science, Technology and Environment Minister Stephen Yong, Deputy Works Minister Laih Wan, both from Sarawak, and the Chief Minister of Penang, Lim Chong Eu, who was toppled after 21 years in office by Democratic Action Party leader Lim Kit Siang.

About eight million of Malaysia's 17.4 million population were eligible to vote in the polls which were monitored by a Commonwealth observer group.

"We lost not because of (government) policies but because of the 'parochialism prevalent in Kelantan,'" Mahathir said.

The clean sweep of Kelantan by the opposition Muslim party of Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS), Razaleigh's Semangat 46 (Spirit of 46) and Berjasa ended a 12-year reign by Mahathir's coalition in Kelantan.

"We lost not because of (government) policies but because of the 'parochialism prevalent in Kelantan,'" Mahathir said.

Tom Boya, who was mayor of Daveyton Township for 10 years, quit unexpectedly Sunday during a rally at the township east of Johannesburg. He also announced he was resigning as head of the United Municipalities of South Africa, an organisation of local black councils.

Many township leaders oppose the idea of local black councils, saying blacks should work to end apartheid through non-governmental organisations such as the African National Congress (ANC). Like many black municipal leaders, Boya had been under pressure to resign.

"This was the wish of the people. They wished me to resign from the local authority structure, and I've decided to do so," Boya said.

He accused the government of not meeting township needs and said other black councilors should also step down.

At the same rally, Boya's deputy mayor and two local councilors also announced they were quitting.

Meanwhile President F.W. De Klerk left South Africa Monday on a trip focusing on the Netherlands, ancestral homeland of his Afrikaner people, in a further sign that his political reforms have given him international stature.

Senior political sources said Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai had called a meeting of his 11-member cabinet Monday to discuss the crisis.

They said the palace had altered the wording of the draft in a way that gave King Birendra, who has to approve the final version, substantial powers the original was designed to take away.

De Klerk, who began to dismantle apartheid after he was elected president in September last year, will discuss his plans to end white minority rule and plead for an easing of sanctions.

The Netherlands, one of the harshest critics of apartheid, was among the first countries to impose economic and cultural sanctions against Pretoria.

Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis hailed the results as more positive than expected and a confirmation of the Greek people's confidence in his government.

"Supported by public approval the government will continue its effort for the recovery of our country and our ailing economy in particular," he said in a televised news conference.

In their latest victory, the conservatives narrowly took the northern port Salonica, Greece's

Filipino gunmen kill labour leader

MANILA (R) — Gunmen killed a moderate Philippine labour leader Monday and Communist hit-squads said they would not allow anyone to interfere with a general strike called for Wednesday.

Four gunmen armed with 45 calibre pistols burst into the office of Oscar Lazaro, 53, head of one of the largest transport unions, while he and four others were having lunch, police and witnesses said.

After ordering all in the room to lie face down on the floor, they took money and valuables before shooting Lazaro and fleeing. No one has claimed responsibility for the killing but the 45 is the favoured weapon of "sparrow" hit squads of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) which have killed several hundred people since President Corazon Aquino came to power in 1986.

The hit-squad headquarters issued a statement supporting the general strike being organised by left-wing unions.

The Communist organisation said it would "mobilise all its forces and its wide networks of mass support to ensure that the people's insurrectionary spirit will not be hindered by scabs and saboteurs."

Another labour leader, Adriano Yumul, head of a small Dock Union, was stabbed to death Monday. Police said they were still investigating the circumstances.

Meanwhile, military rebels

claim they are forming links with Communists and other disaffected groups for a "big bang" against President Corazon Aquino before her term ends in 1992.

Renegade Maj. Abraham Purugganan made the claim during a clandestine interview with Filipino reporters last Saturday. By agreement among the reporters and Purugganan, the interview was not made public until Monday.

Purugganan, sought after a coup attempt last December, said a new coalition, the Democratic Front for Filipinos, would seek to launch a "nationalist revolution" to oust Mrs. Aquino and a new government.

"We will be definitely moving fast before 1992," Purugganan said. "We will just have one big bang."

Purugganan said the new alliance was formed on Oct. 17 during a secret concave, in which a civilian with the alias of Felix Servando was named chairman.

The alliance includes the Young Officers Union, a shadowy military faction linked to the December coup attempt, as well as members of various Communist organisations.

Mrs. Aquino has survived seven military revolts since she took power in the February 1986 "people power revolution" that toppled the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

For short-term gains, please do not endanger the very existence of your employer firms by asking for unrealistic wage increases," she said.

The latest advance claimed by the government in a six-day-old offensive on the northern peninsula, which is mostly controlled by rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The officials said one soldier

was killed and 19 wounded Sunday when troops fought their way into Kankesanthurai, a coastal town six kilometres northwest of Palai Airport.

The military has maintained a camp near the town which has been under rocket and mortar fire since the rebels broke a 13-month ceasefire in June.

"The rebels, after initial resistance, withdrew from the state-owned Kankesanthurai Cement Factory, where they have been using the machinery to turn out

mines," said one official on condition of anonymity.

The bodies of six rebels and 15 sacks of mines were recovered by troops, said the officials.

The government offensive was launched Wednesday, a day after the state radio announced an indefinite curfew in the northern districts of Jaffna and Kilinochchi.

In their initial push, forces advanced south of the airstrip and captured a number of villages and towns.

It is a fight between two election alliances — one standing for unity, well-being and Islamisation and the other for secularism, democracy, goondism (strongman tactics), loot and plunder," he told a Rawalpindi rally at the weekend.

Had the election taken place on Aug. 7, few people doubt that Bhutto would have lost to the IDA, her popularity tarnished by accusations of incompetence and corruption during her 20 months in office.

All sides agree that elections to the 217-seat National Assembly will be won or lost in Punjab, Pakistan's most powerful and populous province and Sharif's political heartland.

Intelligence estimates leaked by the caretaker government give the PPP about 75 seats, the IDA a few more and the rest split between the regional parties and independents.

"Things are better than expected. I have always been confident but I think that the last four days have gone very well," a senior government source said.

Blaming Pakistan's powerful military and bureaucratic establishment for fabricating legal cases against her and her husband, she has clawed her way

Colombo troops capture northern port

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops captured strategic port town in the Jaffna peninsula from Tamil rebels, linking an isolated army outpost to a military airstrip, officials said Monday.

It was the latest advance claimed by the government in a six-day-old offensive on the northern peninsula, which is mostly controlled by rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

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was killed and 19 wounded Sunday when troops fought their way into Kankesanthurai, a coastal town six kilometres northwest of Palai Airport.

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Blaming Pakistan's powerful

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to clean up Pakistan's public life, he set up special courts to hear charges of abuse of power against Bhutto and several of her ministers.

The legal spotlight was also turned on Bhutto's businessman husband, Asif Ali Zardari, arrested on Oct. 10 in connection with cases involving extortion and



Mahathir Mohamad

S. African black township mayor quits

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies)

— A township mayor, who was one of South Africa's longest-serving black municipal leaders resigned and urged other black councilors to do the same, citing dissatisfaction with the national government.

Tom Boya, who was mayor of Daveyton Township for 10 years, quit unexpectedly Sunday during a rally at the township east of Johannesburg. He also announced he was resigning as head of the United Municipalities of South Africa, an organisation of local black councils.

With the compromise rejected by both Hindu and Muslim groups, Prime Minister V.P. Singh and senior cabinet ministers shelved plans to take over property surrounding a shrine claimed by both religions, the Hindustan Times and other major dailies said.

Government meetings on the dispute have been taking place daily and federal officials were expected to do meet Monday with chief ministers from all Indian states.

The dispute centres on a 16th-century mosque in the Hindu holy town of Ayodhya, a dusty town in the remote north Indian plains revered by Hindus as the birthplace of the God Rama.

Fundamentalist Hindus say the mosque, called the Babri Masjid, was built by Muslim conquerors on the foundations of an ancient Hindu temple. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad, the Hindu World Council, has vowed to start rebuilding the temple on Oct. 30.

Muslim activists, led by the Babri Masjid Action Committee, have vowed to thwart the temple construction, since the planned edifice would supplant the existing mosque.

Earlier this month, more than 80 people died in Hindu-Muslim riots precipitated across India by the religious slowdown. Hindus comprise 82 per cent of India's 880 million people, while Muslims make up 12 per cent.

Advani is scheduled to reach Uttar Pradesh, the state where Ayodhya is located, Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister

De Klerk left South Africa Monday on a trip focusing on the Netherlands, ancestral homeland of his Afrikaner people, in a further sign that his political reforms have given him international stature.

De Klerk, who began to dismantle apartheid after he was elected president in September last year, will discuss his plans to end white minority rule and plead for an easing of sanctions.

The Netherlands, one of the harshest critics of apartheid, was among the first countries to impose economic and cultural sanctions against Pretoria.

Meanwhile Nelson Mandela was

received as an honoured guest by the Australian government Monday but some aborigines were less friendly.

Mandela arrived for a five-day stay in Australia after visiting India and Indonesia, which supplied a presidential jet for the flight to Darwin.

The latest of several deadlines for amending the final draft is Wednesday and the sources said a majority in the cabinet was furious at what they saw as a palace plot to delay promulgation of the constitution.

They said the palace had altered the wording of the draft in a way that gave King Birendra, who has to approve the final version, substantial powers the original was designed to take away.

The sources said Bhattarai had sent a message to one of the king's secretaries saying he might be compelled to resign if the palace insisted on the changes.

They said at least two cabinet ministers were seriously contemplating resignation over the palace draft, which was given back to the government 10 days after it was sent to the king.

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